

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

✓
Mr. L. D. Battle/
Executive Secretariat
Department of State
Washington 25, D. C.

Mr. Dulles asked me to forward
the enclosed letter that he received
from Mr. Claude Lewy and a copy of our
reply.

STAT

[REDACTED]

Assistant to the Director

Enclosures

cc: ✓ER

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Dulles:

STAT [REDACTED] tells me that the WE Division
has no information on Mr. Claude Lewy. After
you have signed this reply, I will see that Mr.
Lewy's letter and a copy of your reply are
transmitted to State.

AAB
17 April 61
(DATE)

ER 61-2781/a

19 APR 1961

Mr. Claude Levy

STAT

Dear Mr. Levy:

On returning to my office from a brief trip out of the city, I find your letter of 7 April concerning your proposal to have President Kennedy visit Orleans while on his forthcoming trip to France.

I want to thank you very much for your letter and I appreciate your courtesy in writing to me about this. However, since it is a matter which normally falls within the purview of our State Department, I have taken the liberty of forwarding your letter to that Department for information and appropriate action.

Once again, many thanks and with kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Signed

Allen W. Dulles
Director

STAT O/DCI/ [] back (17 April 61)

Distribution:

- Orig. - Addressee
- 1 - Dept. of State w/basic
- 1 - Chief, WE Division
- 1 - AAB
- ✓ 1 - ER w/cpy basic
- 1 - DCI

(EX-17) []

Executive Registry
61-2781

Letterhead: CLAUDE LEWY
Formerly Lawyer of the Paris Court
Lawyer of the New York Court
Former Mayor of Orleans

Mr Allen Dulles
Director Central Intelligence
212 E Street N. W.
Washington, D. C.

7 April 1961

Mr Director,

I first want to excuse myself for writing to you without having the honor of being known to you, or perhaps barely known. I seem to recall that some ten years ago I had the pleasure of meeting you in a charming house in New York where you had an office overlooking a small garden. This meeting took place at a rendezvous which had been arranged by Gregory Thomas, our excellent and distinguished mutual friend. I still see him quite often in my capacity of vice-president of Chanel, Incorporated, and at many Franco-American meetings which he enlivens with his erudition and eloquence.

The purpose of this letter, which I readily admit is presumptuous, concerns a quite different matter: the coming trip of President Kennedy to France.

On the letterhead of this letter I took the liberty of giving myself my title of "Mayor of the Good City of Orleans" so that you could identify me when you began to read the letter. You undoubtedly know that the commemoration of the deliverance of the city by Jeanne d'Arc is one of the greatest French celebrations held outside of the Capital. It is probably by far the oldest national holiday, dating back over 500 years.

The celebration is always one of the most glamorous. This is the reason that the French Chief of State attends at least once during his term of office. As the last mayor of the Third Republic, I had the honor of welcoming President Lebrun, the last president. After the Liberation, Dr. Segelle, my successor and friend and President of the Sports Federation, received Vincent Auriol and, later, President Coty. In 1959, at the very beginning of his presidency, General de Gaulle also wanted to come to Orleans.

If President Kennedy has time, it does not seem that the visit to the "Good City" is beneath the high dignity attached to his person and his duties.

Let me add that the 8th of May, the date of the Orleans Festival, by a historical coincidence is also the date on which the victorious Allied troops forced the Nazi army to sign the Armistice in 1945.

Finally, the presence of American troops at Orleans, should the occasion arise, would permit a contingent to take part in the parade which is generally part of the Festival. In this case, there might be special arrangements for the parade.

I fully appreciate that this idea, as tempting as it is to me, may be preposterous or completely impracticable.

If the idea is practicable, I realize that you would have to have it investigated through official diplomatic channels. There is no need for me to say that if you still want additional information and if you believe for practical purposes that the invitation should come from the City of Orleans, I should be glad to come to Washington.

In any case, I am happy to have the chance, after having spoken about you with many friends over the last years, to assure you of my very high consideration and great similarity of feelings inspired by your actions.

[signed] CLAUDE LEWY

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Approved For Release 2002/08/23 : CIA-RDP80B01676R003500150050-5

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Approved For Release 2002/08/23 : CIA-RDP80B01676R003500150050-5

STAT

CLAUDE LEWY



Mr. Allen Dulles
Executive Director
Central Intelligence Agency
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Washington D.C.